

U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL, JEFFERSON BARRACKS,
STOREHOUSE

(Veterans Administration Facility, Jefferson Barracks, Building No. 8)

(Veterans Administration Hospital, Jefferson Barracks)

(Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks
Division)

VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division

1 Jefferson Barracks Drive

Saint Louis

Independent City

Missouri

HABS MO-1943-H

MO-1943-H

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

1849 C Street NW

Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL, JEFFERSON BARRACKS, STOREHOUSE (BUILDING 8)

HABS No. MO-1943-H

Location: Building 8, VA Medical Center, 1 Jefferson Barracks Drive,
St. Louis, Missouri
USGS Quadrangle Oakville, Missouri
UTM Coordinates 16 7258013 E 9965687 N

Date of Construction: 1926

Designer: U.S. Veterans Bureau

Contractor: Unknown

Present Owner: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Present Use: Warehouse

Significance: The U.S. Veterans Hospital, Jefferson Barracks, was built from 1922-1923. The Storehouse was completed in 1926 as part of additions and modifications at the hospital that were carried out in the last half of the 1920s. The building has continued to serve as a storage facility at the St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, from the 1920s through the present time.

Project Information: This project was sponsored and funded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as mitigation for the demolition of buildings at the St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, a property that has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places via consensus determination of eligibility between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources State Historic Preservation Office.

Description:

The Storehouse (Building 8) is a one-story stucco-clad facility with a flat roof and metal replacement windows. The building is situated in an area of the medical center complex that includes several smaller buildings used for storage and maintenance. The storehouse interior includes a full story of storage space on the main floor, plus a raised basement that provides additional storage space. The interior layout of the building is fairly intact and contains a large amount of exposed reinforced-concrete structure.

The facade of the Storehouse is the east wall, which has a concrete loading dock with concrete steps on its south end, several window openings filled in with glass block, and three flat metal replacement doors. The building has a small belt of stucco at the roofline, above which is a plain stucco-clad parapet that hides the roof. The south wall features three window openings filled in with glass block and also has the stucco belt and parapet. The north wall has a concrete loading dock that is sheltered by a metal shed-roof porch that clearly dates from the last thirty years. The north wall also features one window opening filled in with glass block, two metal replacement overhead doors, and the stucco belt at the roofline and a parapet. The building's west wall has a series of window openings filled in with glass block, a small cargo opening on the basement level, and a metal gutter. The parapet and stucco band visible on the three other sides of the building was not extended to the west wall.

The basement level of the interior is a storage space with low ceilings. The space has concrete floors, walls, support posts, and ceilings. This basement area is currently used for equipment storage. The main floor of the building has floors, square support posts, roof beams, and ceiling composed of reinforced concrete. The walls are composed of large terra-cotta blocks that have been painted white. Most of the main floor is an open warehouse storage space, but there is a small enclosed office space on the main floor's northwest corner. There is also a small enclosed vault-like room in the center of the main floor, and the south portion of the main floor is divided off into a separate room.

History:

The U.S. Veterans Hospital, Jefferson Barracks, was part of an early 1920s plan to reform health care for veterans. Before the early 1920s, health care for veterans had in many cases been dispensed from improvised facilities that were in poor condition and not well suited for the task. After a well-publicized tour of some of these hospitals, the U.S. Veterans Bureau began planning and construction on new, modern hospitals throughout the United States. Planning for the U.S. Veterans Hospital, Jefferson Barracks, including drafting of construction drawings for the initial group of buildings, took place in 1922. Construction on the major buildings at the hospital began in 1922 and was completed in 1923.

During the last half of the 1920s, several improvements were made to the U.S. Veterans Bureau Hospital at Jefferson Barracks. One of the earliest improvements, completed in 1926, was the addition of a storehouse on the upper end of the campus, located close to the Boiler House (Building 5), the Laundry (Building 6), and the Garage (Building 7). The Storehouse (Building 8) provided additional storage space at the hospital for supplies and other items. Construction drawings for the Storehouse were completed by staff designers at the U.S. Veterans Bureau main office in Washington D.C. in 1924, and construction of the building was finished in 1926.¹

Original floor plans show that the Storehouse had one floor that was divided into two large storerooms and a vault-like small central storeroom that was intended for storing drugs and narcotics. A small office was located next to the drug and narcotic storeroom. The basement level that is used for storage today was not shown on the original drawing sheet for the building. The exterior as shown on the drawings was plain and clad with stucco, with steel-industrial multi-light windows and paneled four-light wood double doors.²

As the Jefferson Barracks VA facility expanded in the 1930s and 1940s, many buildings on the hospital campus changed function, but the Storehouse continued to be used for storage. The Storehouse was listed on a 1950 master plan map of the VA hospital campus as a storehouse³ and on a 1990s facilities map as the Main Warehouse.⁴ The interior of the building is quite intact today in terms of layout and interior finishes, but exterior doors and windows have been replaced within the last thirty years. The building is in use as a warehouse today, but the planned upcoming redevelopment of the St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, calls for demolition of the Storehouse in the coming years.

Sources:

Jamieson and Spearl. Architects and Engineers, *544-Bed Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Master Plan*. 1950. On file at St. Louis VA Hospital, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

¹ U.S. Veterans Bureau, *U.S. Veterans Bureau, Jefferson Barracks, Storehouse*, Elevations, plans, sections, details, 1924, on file at the St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

² Ibid.

³ Jamieson and Spearl, Architects and Engineers, *544-Bed Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Master Plan*, 1950, on file at St. Louis VA Hospital, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

⁴ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, *Annual Real Property Survey Report, Building Numbers and Locations, Jefferson Barracks VAMC*, 1990, on file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

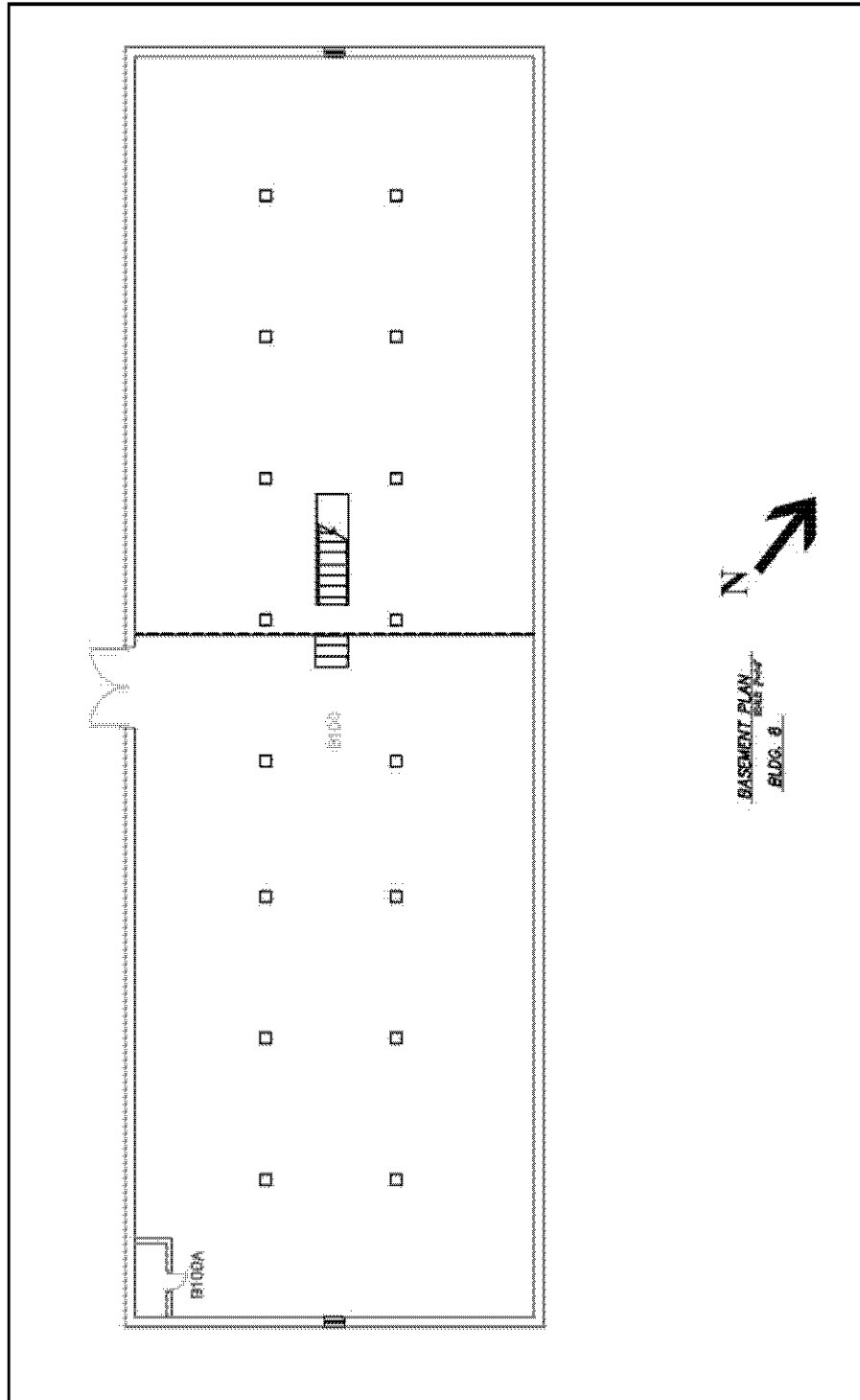
U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL, JEFFERSON BARRACKS, STOREHOUSE
HABS No. MO-1943-H
(Page 4)

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. *Annual Real Property Survey Report, Building Numbers and Locations, Jefferson Barracks VAMC*. 1990. On file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

U.S. Veterans Bureau. *U.S. Veterans Bureau, Jefferson Barracks, Storehouse*. Elevations, plans, sections, details. Washington D.C., 1924. On file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

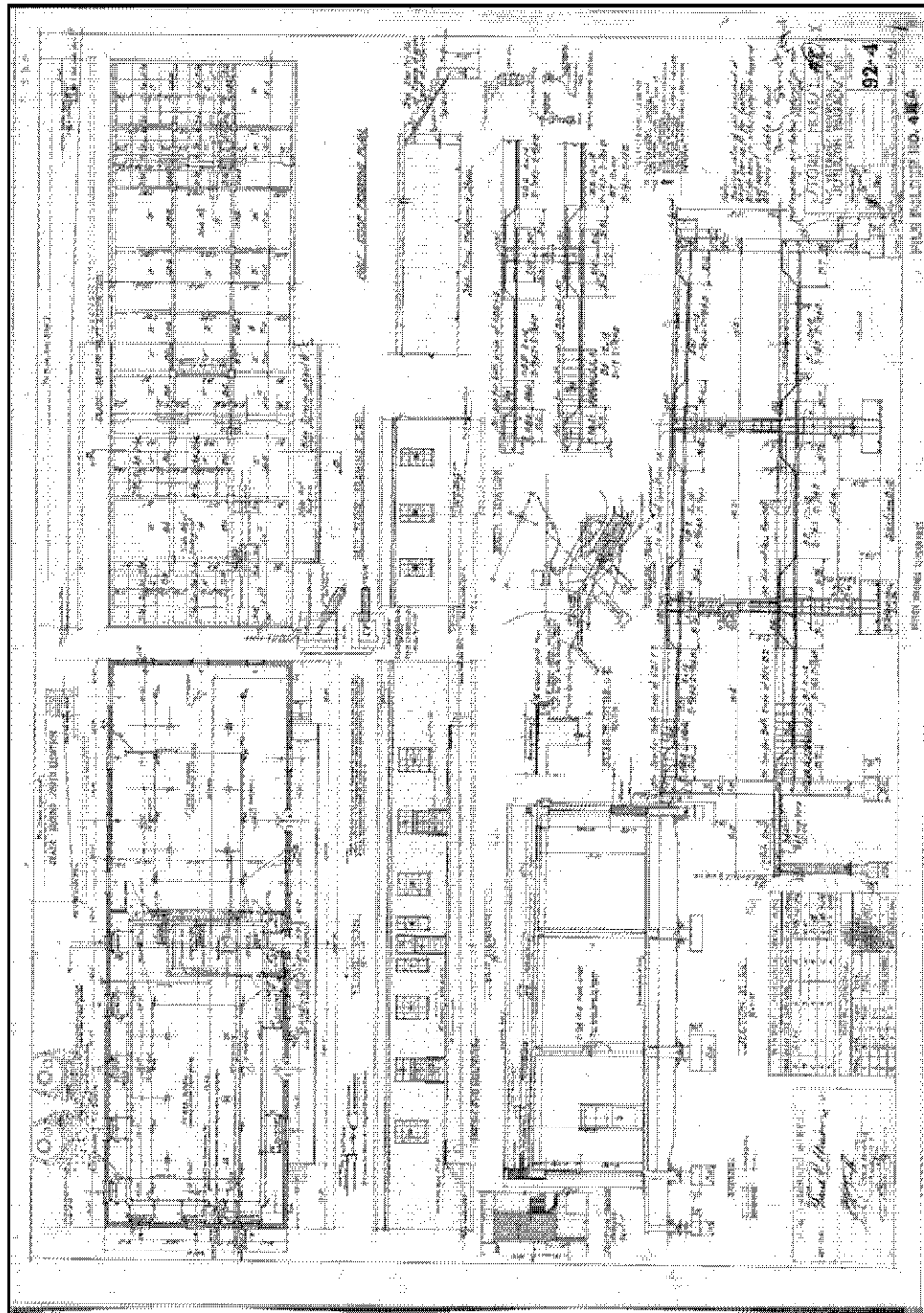
Historians:

Maria Burkett, Roy Hampton
Hardlines Design Company
4608 Indianola Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43214
Tel: 614-784-8733
Fax: 614-786-9336



Warehouse (Building 8), current floor plan

U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL, JEFFERSON BARRACKS, STOREHOUSE
HABS No. MO-1943-H
(Page 6)



Original plans, sections, and elevations of the Storehouse (Building 8), 1924